



## NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Over the past weeks our country has faced deeply disturbing reports about President Trump's actions related to ongoing investigations, including that he asked then-Director James Comey to end the FBI's investigation of former NSA Director Michael Flynn. Prior to these reports, we knew President Trump's handling of his Administration's documented ties to Russia had been, at best, deeply irresponsible. But if these allegations prove true, the President has crossed the line. Obstruction of justice defiles the office of the President, and for the preservation of our democracy, it cannot and must not be tolerated.

I am encouraged that the Justice Department is recognizing the gravity of this situation by appointing a special counsel, former FBI Director Robert Mueller. I don't believe this step would have been achieved without pressure from the American people and hardworking journalists, and I thank all those who are fighting alongside us to follow the facts, wherever they may lead.

Former Director Mueller is a tough and respected public servant. However, Mueller will still be in the chain of command under the Trump-appointed leadership of the Justice Department. He cannot take the place of a truly independent, outside commission that is completely free from Trump Administration oversight. A commission is also necessary to address the broader vulnerability of our elections to foreign interference.

That's why last week I helped launch an effort to force a House vote on an independent commission via the discharge petition process. The bill we want the House to vote on, H.R.356, the Protecting Our Democracy Act, which I co-introduced in January, would examine attempts by the Russian government or others to use electronic means to influence, interfere with, or undermine trust in last year's U.S. elections. It would do so by creating a 12-member, bipartisan, independent commission empowered to interview witnesses, obtain documents, issue subpoenas, and receive public testimony. The bill is currently cosponsored by 199 Members of Congress, two of whom are Republican. One of the Republican members, Congressman Walter Jones, has also signed the discharge petition.

On Friday, I joined Chris Ryan on WKXL to discuss the continuing need for an independent commission. Listen here:

**Pets and vets**

It was great talking about the Warrior Canine Connection program at last week's Pets and Vets briefing in D.C.



For many service members suffering from PTSD and TBI, training service dogs to help other service members and veterans can be an effective, non-pharmaceutical therapy that gives comfort and purpose. I was happy to work with Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) to secure \$2 million in 2014 to expand this program, which is having a positive impact on so many lives.

### **Standing against opioid crisis cuts**

Last week, I sent a letter to the Trump Administration together with 73 bipartisan Members of Congress expressing concern about reported cuts to the Office of National Drug Control Policy. I also sent a letter together with Senator Shaheen, Senator Hassan, and Congresswoman Kuster highlighting the office's importance to New Hampshire as one of the states hardest hit by the heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid crisis.

ONDCP and the programs it supports are uniquely positioned to address the causes and effects of the current opioid crisis, and we must maintain its funding.

[Read the letter here.](#)

### **Celebrating New Hampshire's young artists**

It was a pleasure to meet the gifted students who created such beautiful artwork for the Congressional Art Competition at our annual reception at the New Hampshire Institute of Art.



Congratulations to this year's winner, Londonderry High School senior Melina Illinger, and to all of the participants for their hard work and artistic talent. Looking forward to seeing her winning artwork, "Professor Pop," hanging in the halls of the Capitol for the next year!

### **Relieving student debt**

Students today are leaving college with staggering amounts of debt – especially in New Hampshire. That's why I co-introduced the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, a bill to help Americans refinance their student loans at lower interest rates.

[Read more about the bill here.](#)

### **Closing thoughts**

Tomorrow, President Trump is expected to release his full budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2018. A budget is a moral document, and the budget blueprint he released earlier this year did not reflect the values we share as Americans. I look forward to reporting back to you about which priorities are included in the new budget proposal and the actions I will be taking in response.

Best Wishes,

*Carol Shea-Porter*

Carol

### **Press Releases**

- [New Hampshire Congressional Delegation Writes to President Trump in Opposition to ONDCP Cuts](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Appointment of Special Counsel to Oversee Russia Probe](#)

- [Shea-Porter, 73 House Members Urge Trump Administration to Maintain ONDCP Funding](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on President Trump's Reported Obstruction of Justice](#)
- [ICYMI: HASC Ranking Member Smith Statement on Trump Release of Classified Information](#)
- [Shea-Porter Congratulates Winner of the First District Congressional Art Competition](#)
- [ICYMI: Shea-Porter and Congressional Progressive Caucus Legislators Put Forward Proposals to Work with Trump Administration on Drug Pricing](#)
- [Shea-Porter Introduces Military Spouse Hiring Act Ahead of Military Spouse Appreciation Day](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement Following HHS Secretary's Visit to New Hampshire](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Firing of FBI Director Comey](#)



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